

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 26-39 and 43-48 remain in the referenced application. Claims 26, 30, 32, 35, 37 and 39 have been amended. Claims 19-25, 40-42, and 49 have been canceled.

Claims 26-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, on the basis the term “and/or” used therein does not specifically set forth the metes and bounds of the claims. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended claims 26, 32, and 37 by deleting the phrase “and/or an alternate communication source” and substituting therefor “at least one communication service provider”. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 26-39.

Claims 26 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Ekstrom et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,006,620 B1 – hereinafter referred to as Ekstrom). In rejecting claims 26 and 37, the Examiner asserts the use of the term “and/or” permits interpretation of claims 26 and 37 such that Ekstrom anticipates those claims. Applicant accordingly has amended claim 26 to recite a master module adapted to receive a connection from at least one communication service provider thereby eliminating the term “and/or”. Applicant further has amended claim 37 to depend from claim 26. Applicant therefore respectfully submits claims 26 and 37 are patentable over Ekstrom.

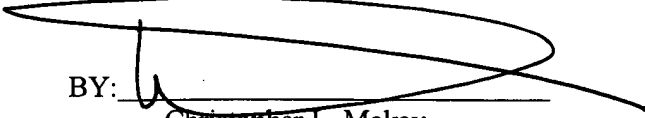
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims and further earnestly solicits early allowance of the application.



Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: 11 July 2006

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